

Why listen to Mary the Mother of Jesus? - 9.
To gear up ones pace towards heaven.

Why recognize the Body of Jesus
in the Living Eucharist? - 8.

Why feed on the Eucharist? - 7.

Why confess oneself with a Catholic Priest? - 6.
When God sees our hearts all the same?

Why go to Church? - 5.
Rather than pray at home.

Why be Catholic? - 4.
Respecting Orthodox, Protestants, and Jehovah's W., etc.

Why be Christian? - 3.
Respecting Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, etc.

Why and How to trust the S. Scripture? - 2.

Why and How to believe in God? - 1.

Why is there Suffering? - 0.



EVERY LAST THURSDAY
of EACH MONTH at 6.30 pm
BEGINNING THURSDAY 27th OF MARCH

OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
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ANSWERING BASIC QUESTIONS OF FAITH "FROM ZERO TO THE EUCHARIST"

Taken from the Italian series presented by Friar Volantino.

Catechesis No. 0

WHY IS THERE SUFFERING ?

Catechetical Work in progress...

In these evenings, we'll read and try to explain some passages of the

- **Word of God (AT, NT)**
- **Teaching of the Catholic Church (from the Fathers of Contemporaneity)**
- **Personal experiences ...**

(INTRODUCTION: Example about observing the road rules).

Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT

- "... Your words are harsh against me - says the LORD - and you ask, 'What have we spoken against you?' You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; what do we gain by observing God's commandments, and by going about as mourners before the Lord [..]? But we call the arrogant blessed; for evildoers not only prosper but they even test God and come to no harm.' Then those who fear the Lord spoke with one another about this, and the Lord listened attentively; [..] 'They shall be mine' - says the Lord of hosts - 'my own prized possession, on the day when I take action. And I will have compassion on them [..] Then you will again distinguish between the just and the wicked, between the one who serves God, and the one who does not. For the day is coming, blazing like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble, and the day, and when it comes, will set them ablaze, leaving them neither root nor branch, says the Lord of hosts. But for you who fear my name, the sun of justice will arise with healing in its rays; And you will go out leaping like calves from the stall" (cf. **MI 3, 13-20**).
- "Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, Lord!" (**Wis 12,2**).
- "God forgives wickedness, rebellion, and sin; yet doesn't leave it without punishment" (cf. **Ex 34,7**).
- "The punishment reconciling us fell on him, by his wounds we were healed. [...] My servant, the just one, shall justify the many, their iniquity he shall bear." (cf. **Is 53,5.11**).
- "They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and well fed... till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. (Cf. **Ps [72]5.17**)

NEW TESTAMENT

- Jesus says: "When a woman is in labor she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish." (cf. **Jn 16,21-22**).
- St. Paul says: " Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake and in my flesh I make up for what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for the sake of his body, which is the church" (cf. **Col 1,24**).
- "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us." (cf. **Rm 8,18**).

- *The first Pope, St. Peter the Apostle says “There is merit for whenever anyone bears the pain of unjust suffering in of awareness of God. But what glory is there if you are patient when beaten for doing wrong? The merit in the sight of God is if you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good. This in fact is what you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.” (1Pt 2,19-21).*

Teachings from the Catholic Church

PATRISTIC AGE

- *“My only desire is that I may find my way to God through suffering and so at the resurrection be your disciple” (St. IGNATIUS of Antioch, Off. of Read., Sat. XVIIth week O.T.).*
- *“Unless we are ready through his power to die in the likeness of his passion, his life is not in us.” (St. IGNATIUS of Antioch, Off. of Read., XVIth Sunday O.T.).*
- *“Let us then imitate his patience, and if we should suffer because of his name, let us give him that glory. For this is the personal example he has given us” (St. POLYCARP of Smyrna, Off. of Read., Tuesday XXVIth week O.T.).*
- *“Let us be ready to suffer with and for Christ more than long the world’s cheerful fellowship” (cf. St. GREGORY Nazianzen, Off. of Read., Sat. 5th week of Lent).*
- *The history of the martyrdom of Saturnin, who had a vision in a dream before his martyrdom in which he saw himself together with Perpetua having gone out of their bodies. Then he said to Perpetua: “Here is what the Lord promised us [...]” then they entered a very beautiful garden [...] and the elders of the garden told them: “Go and have fun!”. (Cf. ACTS OF THE MARTYRS 1, Vatican City, reprint 1962, 14-57)*
- *“I found myself broken into pieces, when I sank away from Thee, and I wandered, O my God, too much astray from Thee [...], in these days of my youth when I longed to be satiated in things below, and I became to myself a barren land.” (cf. St. AUGUSTIN of Hippo, Bishop, Confessions, Book II).*
- *“ [...] ‘Blessed are they who are afflicted, for they shall be comforted.’(cf. Mt 5, 4). But dearly beloved, the affliction for which he promises an eternal consolation has nothing to do with ordinary worldly distress; nor are we dealing with the cries of men in their common suffering. These cries do not render anyone blessed. --- The sighs of the saints are different, as also the reason for their tears are different that merit them to be called Blessed! ---. The grief that pertains to the religious mourns for one’s own or another’s sin; Nor is one saddened because this evil has struck against Divine Justice, but because of what is done by human iniquity!” (SAINT LEO THE GREAT, POPE – from a “Sermon on the beatitudes” - Off. of Read., Saturday, 22th week O.T.).*

MIDDLE AGES

- *“FRANCIS (of Assisi) [...] endured inexpressible sufferance and anxiousness from within, since that he could not manage to be at peace until he had realized his vocation!” (Cf. O.S. Legend of 3 companions No. 12).*
- *“As Christ [...] through the Passion attained to the glory of immortality, likewise, we who are His members are freed by His Passion [...] that ensures us the inheritance of immortal glory” (St. THOMAS of Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, III, p. 49, Art. 3).*
- *“By hammering gold, the smith beats out the dross [...] the sculpture files metal to reveal a shining vein underneath. The potter’s furnace puts vessels to the test. And the fire of suffering tests the spirit of just men. [cf. Sir 27,5 volgata]... Therefore whilst you are scorned at all sides, whilst chastised and corrected by God’s strikes, do not despair [...] let the serenity the joy of your spirit reign over your heart. Let words of thanks resound from your lips.” (St. PETER Damian, Cardinal Off. of Read. 21st February).*
- *“He who knows best how to suffer will enjoy the greater peace, because he is the conqueror over himself, the master of the world, a friend of Christ, and an heir of heaven.” (IMITATION of Christ, IInd book, Chap. 3).*

MODERN AGE

- *“Those who want to walk with me have to labor with me, because by following me in my suffering, they shall follow me also into glory !!!” (St. IGNATIUS of Loyola, Spiritual Exercises, No. 95).*
- *“If you can show you anxiety to your spiritual guide[...] do it without hesitating: you may be sure that you will find great solace. The heart finds relief in telling its troubles to another [...] It is the remedy of remedies (against anxiety)” (St. FRANCIS of Sales, Philothea, Part IV, Chap. XI).*
- *“If a flea in ones ear, or the restlessness of fever, makes an ordinary night seem so long and tedious, how terrible will the endless night of eternity be with so many torments!” (St. FRANCIS de Sales, Philothea, Chapter XV, 7th Meditation).*
- *“To suffer for God’s love is a very single grace, that the Lord grants only to those whom he loves: Whether you’re gold or steel: if you’re gold the suffering purifies you, if you’re steel the suffering takes away rust” (St. JOSEPH of Copertino, Off. of Read. 18th September O.T.).*

POSTMODERN AGE (CONTEMPORANEITY)

- *“Jesus made me understand that he wanted to give me souls by means of the cross” (St. THERESA of Lisieux, Story of a soul, Città Nuova, Roma 1997, pg. 159).*
- *“I don’t love sufferance in itself; I ask GOD for it, I yearn it for the fruits that it gives me: it gives Glory to God, it saves my brothers from this exile, frees souls from the fire of purgatory, so then what more do I want ? - Father, what is suffering? - Answer: Expiation. And what is it for you? – My daily bread, my delight!” (St. PIO of Pietrelcina, Letters of Padre Pio, 167).*
- *“The trials which the Lord subdues you and will subdue you, are all a countersigns of a divine uniting love and gems for the soul. The winter will pass and the unending spring will come, and so the harder were the storms, the richer will be the beauty,” (St. PIO of Pietrelcina, in calendar 2009 – casa sollievo della sofferenza).*
- *“We (often) don’t want to accept that suffering is necessary for the purification of our souls so to detach it from all that was created; [...]. We (often) don’t want to understand that the more God draws a soul to Him, the more He purifies them by means of the Cross, and that without the Cross, God doesn’t want, nor can He save or sanctify us.” (St. PIO of Pietrelcina, FSP, No. 23).*
- *“Down through the centuries and generations it has been seen that in suffering there is concealed a particular power that draws a person interiorly closer to Christ, a special grace. To this grace many saints, such as Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Ignatius of Loyola and others, owe their profound conversion. A result of such a conversion is not only that the individual discovers the salvific meaning of suffering but above all they become a completely new person. They discover a new dimension, as it were, of their entire life and vocation!” (BLESSED JOHN PAUL II, Salvifici Doloris, No.26).*
- *“Our experiences of evil and suffering, injustice and death [...] can shake our faith and become a temptation against it. It is then when we must turn to the witnesses of faith (as for example the martyrs)” (CCC 164).*
- *“The Christian knows that suffering can’t be eliminated, but it can receive a MEANING.. and in this way, be a - STEP - of growth of one’s faith and love!” (POPE FRANCIS, Lumen Fidei, No.56).*
“I complete in my flesh – say’s the Apostle ... explaining the salvific value of suffering – what lacks in the suffering of Christ, in favor of His Body that is the Church’. These words seem to find themselves at the end of a hard worked walk that unties itself through the suffering inserted into the story of mankind that’s illuminated by the Word of God ! ” (cf. Mag. 101, 1)

Experiences

- *“The true story of a mother who lost her son, but finding her Faith, she gained him back Forever.” (Fr V.V. in SLS, p. 16ss).*
- *“The true story of a taxi driver, who didn’t accept voluntary suffering or the penance of consecrated people”. (Fr V.V., in condensed Catechesis poorfriars.net, Step No. 0)*
- *“The true story of a guy who lost the ship on a strait of Gibraltar and got angry with God.. But then..”.*
- *“The answer we give people whom ask us if our feet are cold, wearing only sandals without socks”...*

IN CONCLUSION:

- The story of the smith and the sword ...
- The story of the bamboo reed ...
- The story of someone who said: "God I beg you.. do something !!"...

A SHORT SUMMARY:

- Sufferance is always useful for two things:

SUFFERING IS ALWAYS FOR 2 REASONS :

[Except in the case of Christ (cf. Is 53,4-12;1Pt 2,22) and Mary]

1ST) *If one is in Atheism,*

IT PUSHES THEM TOWARDS FAITH (or more Faith)

E.g. (*Ex 14,1; Ps 106; Wis 12,2; Mk 9,17.13-24; Jn 9,35-39; Rm 10,11; Jn 11,45;1Pt2,7-8; 1Jn5,5; ...*)

2ND) *If one has Faith,*

IT PUSHES THEM TOWARDS HOLINESS !..

E.g. (*Jb 36,5-11; Mt 5,10-13; 1Pt 4,12-19; 1Pt 2,19,21;1Pt 1,6-8; 1Pt 5,10-11; 1Pt1,15;...*)

And let's always remember
That the Lord says that

***new life is born only
after the painful
labor of birth.***

(cf. *Jn 16,21-23*)

So, it's the same for us !

*"In Christ,
the riddles of sorrow
and death grow meaningful.*

*Apart from His Gospel,
they overwhelm us.
Christ has risen,
destroying death!.."*

(cf. Vatican Council II,
Past. Const. *Gaudium et Spes*, No. 22)

Divine Providence is hidden behind painful suffering
just as the luminous Resurrection is hidden behind the Cross of Jesus!
(cf. *2Tm 2, 11-12; Rm 8, 18*)

NB. In regards to all the passages that we didn't read nor explain, if you're interested in having a deeper knowledge of the topic, according to God and the Church and experience ... you can make an appointment with us at the end of the teaching or through e-mail, and we'll come to your house as far as it's possible. We only have to coordinate and unite some people, who thirst for truth!. You find the e-mail on: www.poorfriars.net – with Christian love "Little Friars of Jesus and Mary".